REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-16 are currently pending. Claims 1-4 and 9-15 have been amended; and Claim 16 has been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamara ("JavuNetwork: Remote Video Production and Storage") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0035875 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "the '875 application").

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the Kamara reference discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of "randomly selecting image data" and relies on the '875 application to remedy that deficiency.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a data-providing apparatus for editing image data in response to a demand transmitted from a data-processing apparatus through the Internet, the data-providing apparatus comprising: (1) first acquisition means for acquiring one or more scenarios, each scenario comprising a plurality of video scenes and each video scene lasting for a predetermined period of time, in response to a demand made by a user of the data-processing apparatus using a web browser; (2) second acquisition means for acquiring a predetermined number of video clips that are used in each scenario, in response to a demand made by the user of the data-processing apparatus using the web browser, wherein the second acquisition means acquires the video clips supplied from another data-processing apparatus

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other than the data-providing apparatus; (3) user video-data management means for storing

said one or more scenarios and said video clips; (4) receiving means for receiving video clips

transmitted by the user from the data-processing apparatus through the Internet using the web

browser; (5) means for selecting the video clips acquired by the second acquisition means and

for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the

first acquisition means until each video scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a

corresponding one of the video clips; and (6) editing means for editing the video clips that are

received by the receiving means and allocated to the video scenes of the acquired scenario.

The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new

matter.[1]

The Kamara reference is directed to a Java-based network-centric digital editing

application that incorporates streaming technology. As shown in Figure 1, the Kamara

reference discloses a network-based video editing system in which users can edit digital

media using any web browser. In particular, as shown on page 80 of the Kamara reference,

users can have their video digitized and upload the files they want to edit directly to a web

server or may obtain stock footage from the web server. However, as submitted in the

outstanding Office Action, the Kamara reference fails to disclose means for selecting image

data items and for randomly allocating the selected image data items to video scenes of a

scenario, as previously recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the

Kamara reference fails to disclose means for selecting the video clips acquired by the second

acquisition means and for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a

scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each scene of the scenario has been

randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as recited in amended Claim 1.

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[1] See, e.g., Fig. 41 (steps S58-S60) and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

The '875 application is directed to an image editing device that includes a layout unit for selecting a specific layout example from a plurality of layout examples, and laying out a plurality of image data using the specific layout example. Further, the '875 application discloses that the image editing device includes a manual input unit and a correction unit for correcting the layout examples selected by the layout unit based on input from the manual input unit. As noted by the outstanding Office Action, the '875 application discloses, in Figure 15, a display screen for determining the layout of images and for selecting a frame for an image. As shown in Figure 15, the '875 application discloses the display of several frames 1104-1108, as well as various choices for the user to change image characteristics. Regarding the displayed frames, the '875 application discloses that the user can select among the frames by using a pointing device and that some of the frames can be removed or selected arbitrarily using the pointing device.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '875 application fails to disclose means for selecting video clips acquired by a second acquisition means and for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as recited in Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that the '875 application is not directed to allocating video clips to video scenes, as required by Claim 1. Rather, the '875 application is merely directed to a mechanism for a user to select a frame that would be appropriate for displaying a picture. The '875 application is silent regarding randomly allocating video clips to corresponding video scenes of a scenario, as required by Claim 1.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the Kamara reference and the '875 application are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest means for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by a first acquisition means until

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each video scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as required by Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the Kamara reference and the '875 application.

Independent Claims 9, 10, and 12 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 9, 10, and 12 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 9, 10, and 12 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claim 16 for examination on the merits. New Claim 16, which depends from Claim 1, clarifies that the data providing apparatus further comprises means for allocating each of the one or more scenarios to a corresponding button displayed in the web browser. New Claim 16 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.[2]

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the Kamara reference and the '875 application.

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[2] See, pg. 60 and elements 281-1 through 281-5 in Fig. 28.
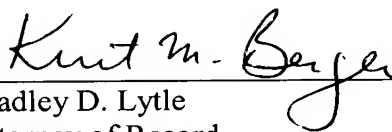
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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